

Fitzgerald's Great Gatsby Selected for 2010 Program

December 22, 2009

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"Congratulations to the Houma Regional Art Council for once again being recognized for their efforts to develop a love for reading among south Louisianians of all ages," said Rep. Melancon. "Nurturing an appreciation for great American literature will help strengthen education and achievement in our communities, because people who love to read also love to learn. I encourage all Louisianians in the region to participate in this opportunity to appreciate our American literary heritage."

The Arts Council will kick off its 2010 Big Read program on Jan. 29, 2010, at the Assumption Parish Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Participants will be able to pick up a copy of *The Great Gatsby* along with a reader's guide, audio guide and bookmark. Additional Big Read events during the year include book discussions, Mardi Gras parades and movie showings. For more information about Big Read events, [click here](#).

Executive Director of the Houma Regional Arts Council Glenda Toups said, **"The last three years of the Big Read have been very successful in engaging the people in our area to read these classic American novels. It's our honor and a pleasure to bring quality arts and cultural programming to the region, and the Big Read allows us to continue to support the literary arts in the communities of south Louisiana."**

The NEA will provide participating organizations like the Houma Regional Arts Council with free support materials including reader's guides for students and community participants, teacher's guides, audio introductions to the book, as well as a comprehensive Web site.

NEA's Big Read is the largest reading program in the United States. Since the program began in 2006, the NEA has awarded more than 802 Big Read grants and engaged communities in all 50 states along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Houma Regional Arts Council was among 269 communities nationwide that will receive Big Read grants between September 2009 and June 2010.

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